of time with the approval of their respective Boards of Directors.

(c) The range of deposit rates of Public Sector Banks group during the last three years is as under:

(in percent)

Time	April 2000	April 2001	April 2002	April 2003	October 2003
Up to 1 yr	5.0-9.0	4.0-8.0	4.25-7.50	4.00-6.00	3.75-5.50
1-3 years	8.50-10.5	8.0-9.5	7.0-8.25	5.25-6.75	5.00-6.00
Over 3 yrs.	9.75-11.0	9.0-10.0	7.75-8.75	5.50-7.00	5.25-6.00

Right to contamination-free water to domestic users

*11. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Jal Board Act, 1996 does not recognise the right of the consumer to be supplied with contamination-free water to the domestic users;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to correct this inadequacy in law to give a legal cover against unsafe water supply; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Water is a State subject and the primary responsibility for supplying domestic water for use by the consumers in Delhi lies with the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. The Delhi Jal Board, under the Government of NCT of Delhi, has informed that there is no express mention in the Delhi Water Board Act, 1998 (not of 1996 as mentioned in the Question) to supply contamination free water for domestic use as the Act has the provision to supply unfiltered water also.

(b) and (c) They have also stated that the Delhi Jal Board has taken on itself the onus of treating the raw water to potable standards at the water treatment plants and the water so treated meets the drinking water

quality as per parameters fixed by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Delhi Jal Board has six modern zonal laboratories, throughout Delhi, to test and monitor the quality of water supplied round the clock. Random samplings are also done daily at consumer end to check incidence of contamination at the consumer's tap. Samples are also got tested from reputed national laboratories. In addition, these reports are compiled and submitted to various health authorities. Delhi Jal Board has stated that the Board is taking every precaution to ensure that the water supplied is wholesome and potable and that no separate legislation is considered necessary in view of its above efforts and effective control on the quality of water.

Pagladiya Dam in Assam

*12. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Chief Minister has urged upon the Central Government to constitute an autonomous body for ensuring the timely completion of the multi-purpose Pagladiya Dam project in the State;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when the proposed autonomous body is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam in his letter dated 2nd August, 2003 to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had mentioned about the delay in implementation of the Pagladiya Dam Project since its clearance in January, 2001 and requested to constitute an autonomous authority for time-bound implementation of the project. The Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources has already replied to the above communication of the Chief Minister. The progress of construction of the project has been delayed due to non-acquisition of land for the dam as well as for resettlement and rehabilitation and handing it over to Brahmaputra Board by the State Government and also due to security-related problems besides change in designs on account of variability of